



*News From*

# Maggie Brooks

## *Monroe County Executive*

For Immediate Release  
Thursday, July 28, 2005

### **BROOKS AND USA HOCKEY ANNOUNCE "USA HOCKEY SKATE TO 2006 TOUR" COMING TO ROCHESTER**

***U.S. Women's National Team to Face Finland Dec. 15***

Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks today joined Head Coach Ben Smith to announce that the U.S. Women's National Team will take on Finland at the Blue Cross Arena at 7:00 p.m. on December 15, 2005. The game is part of the USA Hockey Skate to 2006 Tour, which will take the team across the country as it prepares for the 2006 Olympic Winter Games. Also present for today's announcement were Olympic gold medalists Tricia Dunn and Cammi Granato and Churchville native and 2002 Olympian Lyndsay Wall.

Tickets to the event will go on sale September 6, 2005.

*"Rochester and Monroe County are proud to host the U.S. Women's National Team as they take on Finland and prepare for the 2006 Olympic Games," said Monroe County Executive **Maggie Brooks**. "Women's hockey is one of the fastest growing sports in the United States, due in large part to the international success of the U.S. Women's National Team and the support of USA Hockey. Our community has enjoyed an outstanding partnership with USA Hockey and we are proud to join with them in bringing this exciting game to Rochester."*

*"This continues the work of the Monroe County Sports Development Corporation and its local partners, such as ESL Sports Centre and Blue Cross Arena, to make sports an economic tool for our community," **Brooks** added.*

*"We're eager to give women's hockey this exposure and recognition and we look forward to providing the people of Rochester with the opportunity to see the game live," said **Ben Smith**, Head Coach of the U.S. Women's National Team. "We're certainly glad to bring the tour to the Blue Cross Arena and hope the people here are as excited as we are about this game."*

The U.S. Women's National Team will skate in 11 games during the USA Hockey Skate to 2006 Tour and will visit nine cities between September 30 and December 30, 2005. The Olympic Winter Games will take place in Torino, Italy from February 10-26, 2006.

-- more --

## Page 2

The U.S. Women's National Team will be made up of former Olympians, collegiate standouts and several members of the 2005 World Champion U.S. Women's National Team. The USA Hockey Skate to 2006 Tour roster will be announced following the USA Hockey National Women's Festival in Lake Placid, NY on August 25, 2005.

*"This will be an exciting team to watch," said **Smith**. "The veterans bring a lot of international experience – be it from past Olympics or from other tournaments – and the young up-and-comers provide the sort of energy and excitement that you can almost reach out and touch."*

Tickets to the December 15 game will be available at the Blue Cross Arena Box Office (585-758-5300) and at all Ticketmaster outlets, or by calling Ticketmaster charge-by-phone (585-232-1900 or 716-852-5000) or visiting [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

The December 15 game at Rochester is the eighth game of the tour and is the second game in a four-game series against Finland.

The U.S. Olympic Women's Team has medaled twice at the Olympic Winter Games. The team won the first-ever Olympic gold medal awarded in women's ice hockey in 1998 and took home a silver medal in 2002. USA Hockey is the national governing body for the sport of ice hockey in the United States.

###